

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 04484 120759Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 IO-13 TRSE-00  
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02  
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R 111535Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3157  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 4484

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PEPR ETRD NL RH UK  
SUBJECT: ROYAL DUTCH SHELL ACCUSED OF VIOLATING RHODIESIAN  
EMBARGO

1. TWO MEMBERS OF THE SECOND CHAMBER ANNOUNCED  
AUGUST 10 THEY WOULD ASK THE GOVERNMENT TO INVESTI-  
GATE ALLEGATIONS THAT ROYAL DUTCH SHELL HAS VIOLATED  
THE UN EMBARGO ON PETROLEUM SUPPLIES TO RHODESIA.  
THE ALLEGATION APPARENTLY STEMS FROM UK PRESS REPORTS  
A FEW WEEKS AGO THAT ROYAL DUTCH SHELL HAD CONTINUED  
TO SHIP PETROLEUM TO RHODESIA VIA SOUTH AFRICA.  
THE MEMBERS (SCHOLTEN OF THE CDA AND VAN DEN BERGH  
OF THE LABOR PARTY) SAID THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT DID  
NOT INVESTIGATE, THEY WOULD SUGGEST THE CHAMBER CARRY  
ON ITS OWN INVESTIGATION. THE MPS' STATEMENT FOLLOWED  
ACCUSATIONS EARLIER IN THE DAY BY THE SOUTHERN AFRICA  
COMMITTEE THAT ROYAL DUTCH SHELL'S PRESIDENT HAD  
OPPOSED THE EMBARGO.

2. WE HAD BEEN TOLD PREVIOUSLY BY FOREIGN MINISTER  
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VAN DER KLAUW'S OFFICE (ZAADHOF) THAT THE GOVERN-  
MENT EXPECTED TROUBLE FROM THE PARLIAMENT ON THIS ISSUE.  
THE FACT THAT THE CALL FOR AN INVESTIGATION  
HAS COME FROM MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT COALITION  
AND THE OPPOSITION INDICATES THE ACCURACY OF THAT  
PREDICTION. THE MATTER HAS PROBABLY COME TO A HEAD  
EARLIER THAN ANTICIPATED BECAUSE OF THE STATEMENT

BY THE DUTCH SOUTHERN AFRICA COMMITTEE. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER  
MFA OFFICER (VAN ARKEL OF MIDDLE EAST AND  
AFRICAN AFFAIRS), THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE HAS NOT  
YET BEEN DECIDED BUT HE THOUGHT THE GOVERNMENT  
WOULD LOOK INTO THE ALLEGATION, FOR ONE REASON BECAUSE IT  
DOES NOT LIKE THE IDEA OF PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE  
COMMITTEES (A SIMILAR COMMITTEE IS LOOKING INTO  
THE EFFECT OF THE ARAB BOYCOTT ON DUTCH FIRMS (SEE  
THE HAGUE 4345).

3. VAN ARKEL WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE SOUTHERN AFRICA  
COMMITTEE AS A "VERY EFFECTIVE" PRESSURE GROUP.  
ITS CHAIRMAN IS A DR S. BOSGRA, WHO WAS TRAINED  
AS A BIOLOGIST BUT WHO HAS BECOME A VERY EFFECTIVE  
LOBBYIST. HE PREVIOUSLY WAS ACTIVE IN DUTCH  
ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING PORTUGAL IN AFRICA AND FOUNDED  
THE ANGOLA COMMITTEE. AFTER ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE HE  
TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO SOUTH AFRICA. VAN ARKEL  
CHARACTERIZED HIM AS MARXIST AND SAID THAT HIS  
ORGANIZATION IS SMALL BUT OFTEN ENJOYS THE SUPPORT OF A  
LARGE NUMBER OF DUTCH WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA  
AND RHODESIA. IT HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED THAT HE WAS  
EARLIER INVOLVED IN PROVIDING HELP AND SAFEHAVEN  
FOR AMERICAN MILITARY DESERTERS. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE  
PSP AND WAS ACTIVE IN ANTI-VIETNAM DEMONSTRATIONS.  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, INVESTIGATIONS, ALLEGATIONS, EMBARGOES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
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**Review Release Date:** N/A  
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**Subject:** ROYAL DUTCH SHELL ACCUSED OF VIOLATING RHODIESIAN EMBARGO  
**TAGS:** PEPR, ETRD, NL, RH, UK, ROYAL DUTCH SHELL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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